

SPARUS? FORMOSUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

CAPUT: *Dentes incisores* vel *Laniarii* robusti; *Molares* obtusiusculi, conferti. *Labia* duplicata.

Memb. branch. radiis 5. *Opercula* squamosa.

Corpus compressum. *Linea* lateralis pollice curvata. *Pinnæ* pectorales rotundatae.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 467.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SPARUS RUBER, corporis maculis longitudinalibus variis, apicque caudæ, cæruleis.

Inter illos est pulcherrimus hic piscis quos in Systemate Naturæ non descripsit Linnæus. Secundum normam Linnæanam ad genus Spari referendus est. Fatendum sane est Spari et Labri characteres non satis accurate distingui, speciesque esse aliquas quæ æquali pene jure ad alterutrum genus pertinere videantur. Testis sit species de qua jam agimus, quamque Dominus ASCANIUS in Opere suo *Figures enluminees d'Histoire Naturelle du Nord* dicto, speciem *Labri esse voluit. Huic nostro maxime affinis esse videtur piscis, a Pennantio *Striped Wrasse* nominatus. Spari et Labri species variis

* Et fortasse revera potius Labrus quam Sparus.

variis plerumque et vividis coloribus superbiunt; ut plurimum quoque, pisces sunt exteri et adventitii; at supradictus ille quem descripsit Pennantius, interdum circa littora Britannica conspicitur. Unde delatum sit individuum hoc specimen in tabula depictum, et adhuc in Museo Leveriano conservatum, nobis non satis liquet. Verisimile tamen est piscem esse Britannicum.

Figura nostra magnitudine naturali fere dimidio minorem illum repræsentat. Notatu dignum est nullam aut Labri aut Spari speciem in grandi illo Opere Ichthyologico Domini BLOCH fuisse depictam: quod sane magis mirandum, cum apud multos auctores horum piscium figuræ reperiantur quas ille commode satis, unde et alias plurimas mutuatus est, in Ichthyologiam suam transtulisset.





THE
BEAUTIFUL SPARUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Teeth (generally) strong, and somewhat obtuse.

Lips double.

Membrane of the *Gills* furnished (generally) with
5 rays.

Pectoral Fins of a rounded form.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

RED SPARUS, with the various longitudinal
marks on the body and the tip of the tail
blue.

The beautiful fish here represented, is amongst the number of those which are not to be found in the *Syſtema Naturæ* of Linnæus. The genus to which it belongs should, according to Linnæus's own rules, be that of *Sparus*; but it must be confessed that the characters of the two Linnæan genera of *Sparus* and *Labrus* are not quite sufficiently distinguished, and several species may be observed which might with almost equal propriety be referred to either genus. As a proof of this, I cannot but observe, that in the Work of ASCANIUS, entitled *Figures enluminees d'Histoire Naturelle du Nord*,

du Nord, this fish is given as a species of *Labrus*.*

It seems very nearly allied to the species which Mr. Pennant in his *British Zoology* has called the *Striped Wrasse*. The genera of *Sparus* and *Labrus* are both remarkable for the vivid colours which frequently adorn the species belonging to them. Most of them are natives of the extra-Britannic seas; but the striped Wrasse of Mr. Pennant, to which this fish is so nearly allied, has been sometimes caught on our own coasts. Where the individual specimen was taken, from which this figure was copied, and which is now in the Leverian Museum, I have not been able to learn; but there is reason for supposing it to be a British fish.

It is represented about half the size of the specimen itself.

It is singular that no species either of *Sparus* or *Labrus* has yet been figured in the superb *Ichthyology* of Dr. BLOCH; especially as there are not wanting numerous figures of these fish in the works of several authors, from whom he might have copied them with the same ease that he has done those of a great many other fishes introduced in the course of his Work.

* And perhaps it is really rather a *Labrus* than a *Sparus*.